

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

An electrically conductive paste used for forming wiring conductors, such as via holes ~~(15)~~ disposed on a multilayer ceramic substrate ~~(11)~~, is provided, wherein the temperature range[[,]] in which sintering is effected in a firing step[[,]] can be controlled relatively optimally. The electrically conductive paste contains a metal powder, a ~~grass~~ glass frit, and an organic vehicle. An inorganic component, which is not sintered at a sintering temperature capable of sintering the ceramic layers ~~(12)~~ included in the multilayer ceramic substrate ~~(11)~~ in the firing step, is disposed on particle surfaces of the metal powder. The glass frit has a softening point 150°C to 300°C lower than the above-described sintering temperature.